

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAG: PFOR SP DA

SUBJECT:PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENT ON EVENTS IN SPAIN; US-SPANISH
BASE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

REF: COPENHAGEN 2817

SUMMARY: IN A SEPTEMBER 29 PRESS CONFERENCE, PRIME MINISTER
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ANKER JORGENSEN SAID THAT THE DANES WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE

IN THE UPCOMING EC MINISTERIAL MEETING TO FREEZE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND SPAIN. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CONTRADICTIONARY REPORTS, HE APPARENTLY ALSO SAID THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAS "NO SYMPATHY" FOR THE ONGOING US-SPANISH BASE RIGHTS NEGOTIATIONS. EITHER HE OR FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN MAY HAVE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE "UNUSUAL" TO INTERFERE IN "PURELY BILATERAL TALKS" BETWEEN TWO OTHER COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1) FOLLOWING A SEPTEMBER 29 CABINET MEETING TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN SPAIN, ALSO ATTENDED BY THE RECALLED DANISH AMBASSADOR AKSEL CHRISTIANSEN, PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN AND FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN ANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS. AS IS NOT INFREQUENTLY THE CASE, DANISH PRESS COVERAGE OF WHO SAID WHAT IS CONTRADICTIONARY. FURTHERMORE, IT APPEARS THAT NO TRANSCRIPT WAS MADE. THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS SECRETARY, TO WHOM A LOW-KEY INQUIRY WAS ADDRESSED, WAS NOT PRESENT DURING THE INTERVIEW.

2) IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, JORGENSEN SAID HE ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE CAMPAIGN OF THE DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) TO COLLECT MONEY FOR THE SPANISH RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT GO TO SPAIN AS A TOURIST NOR ATTEND THE PLANNED SOCCER MATCH BETWEEN DENMARK AND SPAIN IN BARCELONA IN OCTOBER.

3) THE DANES WILL ALSO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AT THE EC MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON OCTOBER 6 AND 7 TO ENDORSE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WHICH WOULD PREVENT ANY CLOSER RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE COMMUNITY.

4) WITH THE EXCEPTION NOTED BELOW IN PARA 6, TODAY'S (SEPTEMBER 30) NEWS STORIES OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE AGREED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAS "NO SYMPATHY" FOR THE TALKS THAT ARE GOING ON AT THE MOMENT BETWEEN THE US AND SPAIN ON THE RENEWAL OF BASE RIGHTS AGREEMENTS ON SPANISH TERRITORY. JORGENSEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTEDLY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT DANISH VIEWS ON SPAIN AND NATO HAVE BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, NOTABLY DURING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD LAST JUNE.

5) WHAT IS MORE UNCERTAIN IS A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WOULD BE "UNUSUAL" FOR THE DANISH GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE IN "PURELY BILATERAL TALKS" BETWEEN TWO OTHER

COUNTRIES. MINAVISEN (SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S PARTY), FOR
EXAMPLE, ATTRIBUTES THAT REMARK TO THE PRIME MINISTER,
WHILE POLITIKEN (INDEPENDENT RADICAL ATTITUDES IT TO
FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN. BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (INDEPENDENT
CONSERVATIVE), PROBABLY DENMARK'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS DAILY,
WHILE CARRYING THE "NO SYMPATHY" STATEMENT OF ANKER
JORGENSEN, MAKES NO MENTION OF THE "INTERFERING IN
BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS" REMARK.

6) FINALLY, TO INCREASE THE MURKINESS OF THIS ALREADY
MUDDY SITUATION, THE COPENHAGEN TABLOID EXTRABLADET, WHICH
IS PRINTED HERE LATER THAN THE OTHER NEWSPAPERS, SOFTENS
CONSIDERABLY THE PRIME MINISTER'S EXPRESSION ON THE BASE
NEGOTIATIONS. IT MAY BE THAT THIS STORY APPEARED AS THE
RESULT OF A SEPARATE AND LATER INTERVIEW. IN EXTRABLADET'S
VERSION, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ASKED IF THE DANISH
GOVERNMENT INTENDED, THROUGH NATO, TO "PREVENT A NEW US-
SPANISH TREATY". JORGENSEN REPORTED ANSWER AS FOLLOWS:
"ALREADY LAST JUNE I INFORMED PRESIDENT GERALD FORD THAT
WE WERE OPPOSED TO ANY CLOSER SPANISH RELATIONSHIP TO
NATO..." THE EXTRABLADET CORRESPONDENT ASKED WHETHER
THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN NATO AND A US BASE IN SPAIN WAS
ONLY AN ARTIFICIAL ONE. JORGENSEN ANSWERED: "I DO NOT
BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ANYTHING MORE THAT CAN BE SAID ON
THIS QUESTION." THE STORY CONCLUDED THAT THIS WAS THE WAY
IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER ENDED "ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION
OF A DANISH POSSIBILITY OF APPEALING TO THE US." NOTHING
APPEARED CONCERNING THE "NO SYMPATHY" REMARK REPORTED IN
OTHER PAPERS.
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